

the small and midsized American companies fighting to compete. The problem reached a climax when Moosehead announced its closure in February 2007. The communities of Monson and Dover-Foxcroft, where the company maintained its factories, were dealt great blows with the loss of nearly 130 jobs. And while I was disappointed that Moosehead was forced to shut down its facilities, I fully supported trade adjustment assistance funds to workers who lost their jobs.

However, three new buyers recently stepped forward to save Moosehead Manufacturing: Joshua Tardy, the minority leader of the Maine House of Representatives; Dana Connors, president of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce; and Ed Skovron, a financier from Rhode Island. Under the continued management of John Wentworth, Moosehead will soon resume production in Monson, much to the relief of Piscataquis County, and will return to making longlasting furniture in which Mainers can take pride.

Moosehead Manufacturing's reopening is exciting for the economic prospects of both Monson and Maine. Not only does it provide necessary employment opportunities, but it also sets a precedent for continued, Maine-based manufacturing established on quality and durability in the face of an increasingly competitive global market. I wish the owners and employees of Moosehead Manufacturing Company continued success in the coming years. I look forward to its exciting return to Maine's business scene.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. EILEEN SCHMITT

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, at the end of this year, Dr. Eileen Schmitt, a friend and fixture in our Wilmington community, is retiring, and I want to share her inspirational story because there is much all of us can learn from her.

As we debate health care, again, and again, and again in this Chamber, Dr. Schmitt has lived the life Mother Teresa called for when she said: Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person.

A talented medical doctor who rose to become president and chief executive officer of St. Francis Hospital, she walked away from her fancy title and big desk in 2001 to do her true calling, healing the poorest in our community. She became the medical director for the St. Clare Medical Van, making her rounds in a mobile van to provide free health care to those who have no insurance.

The van pulls up, and there may be 20 people waiting—some earn minimum wage, some don't have a job, some are homeless, many are children—and she asks for no money, no insurance. She just sees to their medical needs.

As part of her work, she arranges for doctors to donate their time, and launched drives to create a pharmaceutical fund for prescription medi-

cines for her patients. If funds are low or a patient needs something right away, she buys it herself. That is the type of person she is.

And in her spare time, you can find her teaching her patients English, and bringing clothes to the families she visits.

When someone asked her why she does it, she explained:

When I first went into medicine, I wanted to do missionary work. I think getting back to taking care of people—especially people who don't have the means to get medical care—helps to fulfill my initial calling.

The acts of love and compassion she provides every day may seem small in our prosperous country of 300 million people, but America would be much less of a Nation were it not for Dr. Schmitt.

Her patients call her their angel, and indeed she has been one to them. But she also is an inspiration to all Americans, reminding us that small acts, one person at a time, touch and change our neighborhoods.

I know Senator CARPER, Congressman CASTLE, and all my colleagues thank Dr. Schmitt and wish her happiness and health as she retires.●

#### CONGRATULATING GEORGE F. POTARACKE

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I would like to take this time to congratulate Mr. George F. Potaracke on his retirement from the Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long Term Care, where he has served as executive director since 1981.

Mr. Potaracke has been with the Board on Aging and Long Term Care since its inception in the early 1980s and was selected as its first executive director. Under his leadership, the Board on Aging and Long Term Care has grown from an agency of only 3 employees to an agency of 30 employees with offices throughout the State.

Along with his duties as executive director of the Board on Aging and Longterm Care, Mr. Potaracke directs the Wisconsin Medigap hotline, which provides counseling services for Medicare beneficiaries in Wisconsin. He is the treasurer of the National Citizens Coalition for Nursing Home Reform and an adviser to the National Health Policy Council and the Aging Leadership Council. He has served as president of the National Association of State Long Term Care Programs and leads fundraising efforts for this organization.

In addition to his work on behalf of seniors, Mr. Potaracke is actively involved with the national Human Rights Campaign, the AIDS Support Network of Southern Wisconsin, Frontier Men of Dane County, and the New Harvest Foundation, where he chairs fund-raising efforts.

Throughout his career, Mr. Potaracke has dedicated himself to a wide range of aging services. As chair of the Senate Special Committee on

Aging, I have had the distinct privilege of working with Mr. Potaracke on a variety of issues and hold his opinion in the highest regard. He is nationally recognized as an advocate for our aging population and has truly made a difference on behalf of all seniors.

On behalf of our State and Nation, I thank Mr. Potaracke for his service and wish him good health, happiness, and prosperity for many years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO WALGREENS' 6000TH STORE IN NEW ORLEANS

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, Walgreens, a leading national drug store chain, is today hosting a celebration for the opening of its 6,000th store, which is located in New Orleans, LA. I am thrilled that for this milestone the company has chosen my hometown, which is enduring a long recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

The greater New Orleans area is one of Walgreens' oldest and most distinct markets. The first store in the region opened in 1938, and the new store in the historic Carrollton neighborhood is the city's 48th. The company currently employs nearly 1,400 people in the area who serve thousands of patients and customers every day. Walgreens will become a wellness resource for Carrollton residents, some of whom have underserved health care needs.

In honor of the grand opening, Walgreens is today offering free blood glucose screenings in every New Orleans store to drive greater awareness of the diabetes epidemic and get more people on the path to prevention or early detection and treatment.

The Walgreens wellness tour bus will also travel to locations throughout the area today to provide a variety of tests, including cholesterol, blood pressure, bone density, and body mass index for individuals who otherwise may not have access to basic health screenings.

Immediately following Katrina, 74 Walgreens stores had to close because of physical damage and loss of power. It was the most significant operational challenge in the company's 106-year history. More than 700 Walgreens employee volunteers traveled from across the country to help with recovery efforts, filling hundreds of thousands of emergency prescriptions and providing vital supplies to evacuees. Walgreens was one of the first retailers to reopen, proving New Orleans was on the road to recovery. I am grateful for their great help to our region during the extremely challenging days following the storm and the flood that followed.

Through its investment, Walgreens is demonstrating its continued commitment to our great city and region. By next summer, Walgreens will have more stores in the New Orleans area than it did prior to the hurricane. I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Walgreens and New Orleans for this longstanding and growing relationship.●